

## Important Information Regarding Remote Learning on Snow Days

Dear Wentworth School Families,

We hope this message finds you and your families well. The winter season is upon us, and we want to inform you about our plans for remote learning resulting from inclement weather cancellations - usually in Maine we call that a Snow Day!

The Board of Education approved a plan wherein the **first three Snow Days are traditional snow days**: drink some cocoa and build a snowman, watch a movie and stay cozy! For the record, we have already had ONE school cancellation due to weather this year. For any day school is canceled after the third traditional Snow Day, all students in Scarborough Public Schools will have a remote learning day. This is like a “work from home” day, and looks different at each phase level based on the developmental needs of the learners. We are committed to ensuring that your child's education continues on remote learning days, and our dedicated teachers have prepared engaging and meaningful assignments for such occasions.

### **Here's what you can expect:**

**Communication:** School closure information will be communicated through our regular channels, including the school website, email, and automated phone calls. Please ensure your PowerSchool parent portal is updated with all of your contact information. This will ensure you receive all of the communications from the district. <https://scarborough.powerschool.com/public>

**Lessons and Assignments:** Teachers have collaborated to create accessible, low-tech Snow Day packs for our third, fourth and fifth graders. These envelopes will be sent home on **Monday, January 22**. Please tuck them away in a safe spot until they are needed. The work has been carefully selected to include detailed instructions and assignments that your child can complete from the safety and comfort of home.

**Access to Resources:** The Snow Day pack will be nearly all that your child will need available to students to support their independent learning. The only other materials are basic supplies, like pencils, pens, etc that most households have access to and/or your child has in their backpack from school. If you need any assistance in requiring home office supplies, please reach out to your child's teacher. Teachers may choose to substitute the materials from the Remote Learning Snow Day pack with something more relevant to what they are currently working on if the storm day is a “predictable one” and the lessons are easily transferable to home. Teachers may provide more information about this as applicable. We are not basing our Snow Day Packs on technology use for the following reasons:

- Wentworth students do not bring their chromebooks home daily, and therefore not all students would have access to a computer
- During inclement weather, internet is not always reliable
- Our students still require varying degrees of adult support to use the computer and internet safely and effectively, and therefore would not be able to be as independent with their school work
- Wentworth aged students will be in varying child care situations on Snow Days, and the paper packets are portable and can be completed anywhere

**Flexibility:** Recognizing the unique circumstances of a snow day, we understand that families may have different schedules. Snow Day packs provide flexibility in completing assignments over the course of the day using a timeframe that works for your family. The menu also provides options for your child regarding which assignments are selected.

**Teacher Availability:** Teachers will be available to answer any questions or provide additional support to students (provided we do not have widespread power/internet outages). If there is a question or need for additional support, email your child's teacher and they will be back in touch. Contact details will be included in the communication from your child's teacher.

**Attendance:** Will be completed via a Google Form that we will provide for families. Please complete it by 10:30 AM indicating that your child is "present" and will participate in the remote learning day via the Snow Day pack assignments.

We appreciate your support and anticipate that this balance of traditional Snow Days and remote learning days will be a successful plan for SPS. Thank you for your ongoing partnership in your child's education.

Stay warm and safe!

Sincerely,

Kelli Crosby  
Principal  
Wentworth School